

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

January 15, 2002

**7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Guinta.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, Lopez,
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, and Forest

Absent: Aldermen Wihby, O'Neil

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person would be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Dan Desfosses, Manchester stated:

Mayor Baines the reason I am here now is I stopped into City Hall about a week or two ago because I was upset about my childhood friend, who was a Manchester businessman losing his life. I figured it was time for me to say something. The reason I am here is I would say that most of us who have been in Manchester for five, six or seven generations and who have to listen to WGIR Channel 9 saying nobody knows Manchester like we do and it is all out-of-state news that it is time for somebody to say something. Most of us I would say are a lot like me. They watch Channel 16 or Channel 22 and they really don't know what the hell you people are talking about because I don't know anything about City government and I hate to say this but most people who don't own a business in town and don't seek public office don't

understand what it is you are discussing. However, since they watch the television news and they have to defend their nation at war time, they do probably know more about the Federal government than they do the local City government. I saw a piece of trash on the sidewalk one day and I picked it up and it said that Ralph Nader was going to be at the Palace Theatre in two hours. I went over to the Palace Theatre from this piece of trash I picked up off the sidewalk and I listened to Ralph Nader give a great speech. I am here to say that President Bill Clinton got rid of the national debt. That is what President Bill Clinton did. Monica Lewinsky stalked the President. Now is that clear? He got rid of the national debt. That is what the President of the United States did. Dwight David Eisenhower as President had a heart attack and a stroke. Nobody knew about it. President Bush falls down because he choked on a pretzel and the whole world knows about it. That is the world we are living in. Thank you.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester stated:

The reason I am here tonight is I want to address you in public, your Honor, that on December 18 I understood the City was given a legal challenge to address and the Aldermen of the previous Board were not informed. I find that a very deceptive practice. You are a leader of the City and I find it most unimpressive that you didn't have the time to tell the Aldermen of the previous Board that there was a legal challenge. It was in the City Solicitor's Office the day of our last Aldermanic meeting. You know the case that I am speaking of and I don't have to mention it, but I find that that is very disheartening and I hope that you treat this new Board with respect and if there is a legal challenge that they are notified right away about it. Also, although there was not an Aldermanic meeting scheduled, I wish to repeal the parking meters going until 8 PM. I was disheartened that you blocked that move. I wanted to poll the Board during the last week of the year and you blocked that, your Honor. I hope someone on this Board repeals the parking meters for the downtown to about 6 PM. 8 PM is not serving the public. People are getting tickets unnecessarily and I think you will find that the ticket revenue is through the roof. Those are the two issues that I think the public had to know about without me calling the press. I think that everyone has a right to come down here and say their two cents.

Sandra Tremblay, Amory Street, Manchester stated:

I am here in reference to the Building Department and the laws that we need to abide by, which is your Section Code 150. These laws are not in procedure with the Building Department. In fact, we as citizens don't even know about them. We have to pay to get them. I have spoken with Mr. Lopez in the past two weeks and have asked the Building Department about the laws. Although it is a law, they are saying that they don't need to follow it. I have pulled the ordinance out of archives and what it says here we should be following they are not doing so and I need to know what we can do about it. I did receive a ticket for living in my house and I am going to seek to try and get it back because I think it was unjustly done. The law protects me from getting a ticket, yet it is the very law that

allows them to give me a ticket. I am pretty new at this but I need you guys to look at the Building Department and see what they are doing.

Senator Lou D'Allesandro, 322 St. James Avenue, Manchester stated:

I just wanted to bring to your attention a series of telephone calls that I have received from people within the City related to the tremendous escalation in the cost for rental properties in the City of Manchester. Working class men and women come to the City and give their efforts to do good things for the City of Manchester and what they are finding is that dramatic escalations are taking place in rental properties. I understand that we are not a rent control area. I don't think we want to be a rent control area, but it seems that we must be sensitive to the fact that in order for us to grow economically, rents have to be within the parameters of the ability to pay for the tenant. Reasonable rents are certainly a desirable situation. We understand that the landlord has to make a profit. I understand that quite clearly but it seems to me when you have a dramatic escalation in the vicinity sometimes of 30% to 35%, that is well beyond what I would think is a reasonable situation. That has been brought to my attention and we know that one of the significant problems facing the economic well-being of the State of NH is housing. Rental properties are just not available. They are not available for people coming into our community and our State. It is a problem that we are trying to address at the State level. I know that Senator Gatsas and myself have been involved in a couple of innovative concepts with regard to inducing people to build more housing of this type but at the present time I wanted to bring that to your attention because we are all members of the public service and we should be aware of the fact that people who are struggling to make a living are really being damaged by these exceedingly dramatic increases in their rent.

Alderman Lopez asked can I make a correction on a comment that was made on one of the speakers.

Mayor Baines answered yes.

Alderman Lopez stated just for a correction in reference to a conversation about the last Board of Aldermen receiving something in reference to Susan Lafond, that had been cleared by the City Solicitor working with the attorney and it was referred to the new Board for the record. Secondly, for the sake of Ms. Tremblay I have been working with the Building Department and Leon is reviewing Section 107 of the ordinance to insure that compliance is done.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the Special Meeting, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk